

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 01359 201517Z

61

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

SAM-01 DPW-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /109 W

----- 103846

R 201134Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7780

SECDEF

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR JCRC NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1359

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: POST COALITION GOVERNMENT PW/MIA ACTIVITIES
IN LAOS

REF: (A) STATE 129012

(B) STATE 134097

(C) VIENTIANE 1342

1. FBIS BANGKOK D170232Z FEB 74 REPORTS INTERVIEW IN WHICH LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) SENIOR DELEGATE SOTH PHETRASY ALLEGES THAT LPF HOLD 640 THAI MERCENARY PWS. THIS FIGURE IS QUESTIONABLE SINCE IT MAY BE INTENDED AS PROPAGANDA, BUT IT DOES CORRELATE ROUGHLY WITH THE APPROXIMATELY 750 THAI REPORTED MIA TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE BY VARIOUS SOURCES. SOTH ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THAI PWS WILL BE RELEASED "AS SOON AS THE COALITION GOVERNMENT IN LAOS IS FORMED." WE EXPECT RELEASE TO BE STRETCHED OUT DURING 60-DAY WITHDRAWAL PERIOD OF FOREIGN TROOPS PRESCRIBED IN LAOS AGREEMENT.

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 01359 201517Z

2. SINCE ROYAL LOA GOVERNMENT (RLG) AND LPF HAVE INDICATED PREVIOUSLY THAT THEY HOLD NO LAO PWS (BOTH SIDES ASSUME THAT ALL CAPTURED LAO PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ASSIMILATED AS RALLIERS), THE APPROXIMATELY 200 NVA PWS IN RLG CUSTODY, AND HOWEVER MANY THAI ARE BEING HELD BY THE LPF, REPRESENT THE TOTAL KNOWN PW POPULATION IN LAOS (OTHER THAN US PILOT EMMET KAY). THE JOINT CENTRAL COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCCIA) WILL HAVE ITS HANDS FULL ADDRESSING THE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE ISSUES INVOLVED IN ANY NVA/THAI MERCENARY PW RELEASE ACTIVITIES.

3. AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE WILL ASSIST AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IN EXECUTING THAI PW/MIA NOTIFICATION RESPONSIBILITIES PRESCRIBED IN REFS A AND B.

4. REF C REPORT POSSIBILITY THAT COALITION GOVERNMENT MAY BE NAMED ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 21, WITH FORMAL INSTALLATION TO BE ACCOMPLISHED AT A LATER DATE. MEDIA AND MIA GROUPS SHOULD BE MADE AWARE THAT NAMING OF THE COALITION MINISTERS DOES NOT COMPRISE FORMATION OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION (PGNU) FOR PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING PW/MIA PROVISIONS OF LAO PROTOCOL. THESE MUST AWAIT INVESTITURE OF NEW GOVERNMENT.
WHITEHOUSE

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